

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

100
428353

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Screened by NARA
(RD-F) Date:
06-13-2017 FOIA case #
46648 DOCID: 32913301

Declassification
authority derived from
FBI Automatic
Declassification Guide,
issued May 24, 2007

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

VICTOR X EMANUEL
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

April 2, 1958

91356

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosch
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Clayton
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Edgar:

I received the enclosed from a very close friend of mine, Mr. James A. McConnell of Ithaca, who you might remember as a rather recent Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and where he did a wonderful job and was popular with everyone who dealt with him. He is probably the leading grain man in this country. Also, for many years, he was the General Manager of the G.L.F., the largest bona fide farmer's cooperative in the United States and the one which first gave up its right to tax exemptions. He is extremely conservative.

I had not heard about this particular situation before and although you probably have I thought I would send it to you.

With all the best,

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
APR 2 1958
FBI - NEW YORK
FILED
MAY 1 1958
FBI - NEW YORK
BY [Signature]

REC-18

MCT 41

EX-128

100-42883-23-1

EX-128

APR 28 1958

91357

Appointment to the New York Board of Education

On Monday, March 24, Mayor Robert F. Wagner appointed the Rev. Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor to the New York City Board of Education. Dr. Taylor, a 39 year old Negro Baptist clergyman of Brooklyn, will take the oath of office at City Hall on Friday, March 28.

Dr. Taylor's appointment brings up the question of his extraordinary relationship with the Communist apparatus, in conducting the funeral service of a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party in his Brooklyn church.

It is extraordinary, if not utterly fantastic, for the Communist Party to use a Christian church for the burial of one of its leaders, and even more extraordinary and fantastic for a minister of religion to deliver a eulogy of the deceased Communist Party leader on the occasion.

The deceased Communist Party leader was Edward E. Strong, a key figure in the Communist conspiracy for 25 years.

In his funeral sermon, Dr. Taylor was reported to have "paid homage" to Edward E. Strong "as one who dared to dream and work for the new world every good person desires." Surely that is a strange tribute to a Communist Party leader by a Christian clergyman.

Paul Robeson sang at the funeral service for Edward E. Strong, and the following Communist Party leaders were pall bearers: James W. Ford, Benjamin J. Davis, Claude Lightfoot, Louis Burnham, and William L. Patterson.

Using a Christian church for the burial rites of one of its leaders reflects the new line of the Communist Party, the chief aspect of which is to get its conspiratorial apparatus back into the main stream of American life--to end, at whatever necessary compromise of its atheistic principle, its isolation of recent years.

The National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, issued an official statement on the death of Edward E. Strong which read, in part, as follows:

"Returning from his service in World War II, Ed Strong became a leader of the Communist Party. As a member of its national committee, as Chairman of the Eastern Pennsylvania District, as Southern Regional Secretary, he enriched the Party with the high quality of leadership which had won the admiration and respect of scores of thousands in the youth movement--above all, he was a man of sterling personal character. He was a fitting prototype of the new Communist man. That was the official eulogy of the Communist Party, U.S.A."

Early this year, the Rev. Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor was elected president of the Protestant Council of the City of New York. His elevation to the highest position in Protestantism in Greater New York was hailed by the city's press. He has jurisdiction over 1,700 churches of 31 denominations.

Mr. Taylor is vice president of the Urban League of Greater New York. He was a member of the Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ at the organization's St. Louis meeting in December.

Edward E. Strong's burial services in the Concord Baptist Church of Brooklyn took place in April, 1957.

100- 428353 - 1

ENCLOSURE

Director, FBI

6/6/58

Attention: Mr. G. A. Nease

SAC, Cincinnati

M.G. LOWMAN,
Circuit Riders
Cincinnati, Ohio

Gardner Calvin Taylor

Mr. LOWMAN, who is known to Mr. Nease at the Bureau, telephonically offered to SAC the following observations:

1) There will be a large Baptist Convention in Cincinnati shortly. A featured speaker will be GARDNER TAYLOR, President of the Greater New York City Ministerial Association. TAYLOR is a noted colored minister. In April, 1957, he preached a sermon at the Concord Baptist Church in connection with the funeral of EDWARD STRONG, Communist, and Mr. LOWMAN intends to see that this is publicized in connection with the convention of Baptists in Cincinnati. He observes that it is strange that a member of the National Committee of Communists should be a member of the Protestant Church and that other high officials on the Communist Committee should attend the STRONG funeral in a church.

2) The U. S. National Student Association will hold its 10th Annual meeting in August at Ohio Wesleyan University. LOWMAN stated that in the past this group has passed resolutions on an extremely wide range of anti-U. S. topics and from his reading of these resolutions they are completely beyond undergraduate abilities and, therefore, there must be some adult guidance in inspiring and preparing such broad and controversial resolutions. LOWMAN intends to keep in touch with developments of this group.

3) Dr. ARTHUR FLEMING, new secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, is an individual not worthy of trust according to LOWMAN. LOWMAN bases this personal evaluation on his belief that the Civil Service was manipulated on occasions in favor of Communism during the period when FLEMING served with the Civil Service Commission.

2 - Bureau
1 - Cincinnati
EDM:pat
(3)

52 JUN 25 1958

GM
MCT-10 | 100-428363-
NOT RECORDED
102 JUN 23 1958
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 602-928363-2

It is his belief that there were a number of occasions wherein field investigators of Civil Service reported findings of Communist activity on the part of proposed Government employees but that such persons were hired anyhow when Civil Service Commission overruled field findings.

22-36
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

19-

- Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
- Service Unit - Room 6524
- Forward to File Review
- Attention _____
- Return to _____

Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

No "2109"

Subject Rev. Gardner Taylor

Birthdate & Place

Birthdate & place 170 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn,
Address N.Y. Representative to the General

Localities Assembly

Securities _____ Searcher _____
R# _____ Date 4/16/16 Initials Ymac

Prod.

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

T 100-428353 ✓
Arr of 50 pens
on Buildings & Breakdowns
1st listed.

John 5

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

19

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
 Service Unit - Room 6524
 Forward to File Review
 Attention
 Return to Marley 1261
 Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main References Only

Breakdown to 1st name

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

no who whoSubject Gardner, Calvin Linton

Birthdate & Place _____

Address APR 13 1960Kew.

Localities

R 22 Date 4/13/60 Searcher Thnk
Prod. 22 Initials _____

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
100	100-428353	
100	100-403206-5	
S.I.	100-30136-420	
ND	62-101087-35-A-71.21	
	Herald 3/25/58	
ND	62-101087-35-A-Wash.	
	Star 2/11/58	
	Gardner, C.	
ND	62-101087-35-A-N.Y.	
	World Telegram 4	
ND	Sun 6/11/58	
ND	D. W. 1/13/56	
ND	62-101087-144	
ND	62-105187-53	
S.I.	62-103863-13, b7, 27, 1	
ND	100-135-33-61	
S.I.	100-10355-261	
S.I.	235, 0.5	
S.I.	293, 0.6	
	APR 14 1960	

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Gardner (Calvin) TaylorSupervisor Marley Room 1261
Searcher Amk
R# 101 Date 4/13/60 Initial Amk

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Gardner C.

<u>ND</u>	<u>100-563081-</u>	<u>8,</u>
<u>ND</u>		<u>10,</u>
<u>P</u>	<u>100-89789-</u>	<u>3, p. 6;</u>
<u>NDL</u>	<u>100-193384-A</u>	<u>- La.</u>
		<u>Sentinel 4/17/43</u>
<u>ND</u>	<u>100-193384-A</u>	<u>- La.</u>
		<u>Weekly 4/17/43</u>
<u>P</u>	<u>100-232896-</u>	<u>1,</u>
<u>S. I.</u>		<u>8,</u>
<u>S. I.</u>	<u>100-384660-</u>	<u>42,</u>
<u>S. I.</u>		<u>47,</u>
<u>S. I.</u>	<u>100-384660-</u>	<u>36, p. 12;</u>
<u>S. I.</u>	<u>100-384660-</u>	<u>A - D. W.</u>
		<u>1/20/53</u>
		<u>Gardner</u>
<u>ND</u>	<u>100-428353</u>	
<u>P</u>	<u>100-11544-</u>	<u>26, p. 19;</u>
<u>P</u>	<u>100-3-47-</u>	<u>47,</u>
<u>ND</u>	<u>100-369492-</u>	<u>170,</u>
<u>P</u>	<u>77-77305-</u>	<u>6,</u>
<u>PL</u>	<u>100-424875-</u>	<u>12, p. 8;</u>
<u>ND</u>	<u>140-17311-</u>	<u>2,</u>
<u>NP</u>	<u>15-15415-</u>	<u>4, 111F</u>
<u>NP</u>	<u>62-145187-</u>	<u>170, p. 18;</u>
<u>NP</u>	<u>105-678435-</u>	<u>134, p. 22;</u>
<u>NP</u>		<u>encl.</u>
<u>NP</u>	<u>100-3-82-</u>	<u>A - No newspaper</u>
		<u>card dtd. 5/6/57.</u>
		<u>Pastor of the Concord</u>
		<u>Baptist church.</u>
		<u>Gardner C.</u>
<u>ND</u>	<u>61-3176-</u>	<u>448, p. 7;</u>

✓

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Gardner Calvin Taylor
Supervisor Morley Room 1261
R# R235 Date 4/13/60 Initial Wmk
Searcher

Gardiner)

14

April 25, 1960

REVEREND GARDNER TAYLOR
100-428353

Background

The House Committee on Un-American Activities has advised that Reverend Gardner Taylor, 170 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, New York, was a Representative to the General Assembly (GA). (The GA was not further identified.)

Subversive Data

A report by [redacted] FOIA(b)(7) - (D) dated February 4, 1942, at New Orleans captioned "Negro Reverends Who Are Liberals and Being Used by the CP" contained the name of Gardner Taylor. (100-3-47-47)

It is not known whether this Gardner Taylor is identical with the captioned individual.

The "New Orleans Sentinel," a newspaper, on October 24, 1942, carried an article which indicated that Reverend Gardner C. Taylor would be a speaker at a meeting of the Peoples Defense League (PDL) on October 25, 1942, at New Orleans. (100-232896-1, page 4)

Gladys Devore Williams, a former Communist Party (CP) member, advised on May 22, 1959, that the PDL is a Negro organization in New Orleans interested in local politics and not controlled or infiltrated by the CP now; however, during 1940-1948 it was infiltrated. (100-232896-1, page 4)

The "Times Picayune" issue of October 29, 1946, contained an article which reported that Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was elected to an office (not further identified) at the Southern Conference for Human Welfare (SCHW) convention held in October, 1946, in Baton Rouge. (100-10355-235, page 5)

The leaflet indicated that a program under the auspices of the New Orleans Youth Conference (NOYC) would be held on September 4, 1947, at 929 Gravier Street, and that Reverend Gardner C. Taylor, pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, would be a speaker.

J. F. MORLEY:kmo

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Reverend Gardner Taylor

FOIA b 7 - D

a former CP member who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in April, 1948, that the NOYC was infiltrated and controlled by the CP during the period of its existence, 1942-1947. (100-89789-3)

The SCHW is cited as a communist front in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of January 2, 1957, and released by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

A confidential informant of known reliability advised on November 18, 1947, that the SCHW sponsored a public meeting on November 17, 1947, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a Gardner Taylor spoke at the meeting. (100-11544-26)

An article on page two of the January 20, 1953, issue of the "Daily Worker" reported on a two-day conference of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) which was to be held on January 30-31, 1953. Reverend Gardner C. Taylor, Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, was listed as a sponsor of the conference. (100-384660-42)

The "Daily Worker" was a communist east coast newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.

The ECLC has been cited in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of January 20, 1957, and released by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

By letter to the Director dated April 2, 1958, Victor Emanuel, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, New York, whose identity is well known to the Bureau, furnished a memorandum dated March 25, 1958, captioned "Appointment to the New York Board of Education." The memorandum indicated that on Monday, March 24, 1958, Mayor Robert F. Wagner appointed the Reverend Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor to the New York City Board of Education and that Dr. Taylor was a 39-year-old Negro Baptist clergyman from Brooklyn. In the memorandum it was indicated that Dr. Taylor had conducted the funeral services for Edward E. Strong, CP functionary, in the Concord Baptist Church of Brooklyn, in April, 1957. (100-428353-1)

April 25, 1960

REVEREND GARDNER TAYLOR
100-428353

Background

Gardner C. Taylor (born 1919)

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J. F. MORLEY:kmo

AGENCY Except NY
REQ. REC'D.
DATE FORW. 5-10-62
HOW FORW. letter
BY C. J. H. - 100

ENCLOSURE

100-428353-2

Reverend Gardner Taylor

FOIA b 7 - D

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO F. J. Baumgardner *JK*

DATE: April 25, 1960

FROM J. H. Kleinkauf *JK*SUBJECT: REV. GARDNER TAYLOR*b7
b7c
enc*

On 2/25/60 the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) held a hearing concerning the controversial Air Reserve Center Training Manual. According to page 1303 of HCUA's report "Issues Presented by Air Reserve Training Manual," Richard Arens, Staff Director, HCUA, stated HCUA had found over 100 persons in leadership capacity of the National Council of the Churches of Christ (NCCC) with either communist front records or records of service to communist causes. (A copy of HCUA report is filed in 61-7582-4451.)

On 3/30/60 HCUA furnished us, in response to our request based on Arens' statement, a list of names of 160 individuals in this regard. (A copy of the list is filed in 100-403529-111.)

The list of 160 names was searched through Bureau indices and files. The following is noted concerning captioned individual:

- Bureau indices and files contain either no record or no identifiable data of a subversive nature.
- A summary memorandum incorporating subversive data identifiable or possibly identifiable with captioned individual has been prepared.
- Captioned individual was mentioned in the Brief on "Communism and Religion" prepared in 3/60; therefore, no file search was made at this time. (A copy of the Brief is filed in 100-403529-112.)
- A name check had recently been made, consequently, no search was made at this time. The name check memorandum is located in file _____.

Enclosure
Bufile 100-428353

REC-16

MCT 13

100-428353

2

EX-107

MAY 5 1960

50 MAY 18 1960

Memorandum J. H. Kleinkauf to F. J. Baumgardner
Re: REV. GARDNER TAYLOR
Bufile 100-422353

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that instant memorandum and its attachment, if any, be routed to the Records Branch:

- To be filed in case file on captioned individual;
- To have a new 100 main inactive file opened on captioned individual and for filing therein.

19

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
 Service Unit - Room 6524
 Forward to File Review
 Attention _____
 Return to _____

Supervisor	Room	Ext.
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Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

TAYLOR, Gardner C.

Subject 6-18-18 Baton Rouge, La
 Birthdate & Place 833 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Address

Localities _____

R# _____ Date 10/4 Searcher 3/H Initials 3/H

Prod. 100-428353
 100-428353-428353
 100-428353-2 428353

Gardner C. Taylor (BL)
 100-428353-2 428353
 Gardner C. Taylor

100-428353-428353
 100-428353-428353

100-433347-1

100-50869-4220013

The following names have been checked UTD

Gardner C. Taylor, CURS

100-4280971-42825

Gardner C. Taylor, CURS

100-3176-448071

G.C. Taylor

100-332896-1

N1 105-412300-1464

9
October 13, 1960

Summary

GARDNER C. TAYLOR
Born: June 18, 1918
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Gardner C. Taylor

In response to your name check request this is to advise that the FBI has not conducted any investigation regarding captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reveal the following information which may pertain to the subject of your name check request.

The "New Orleans Sentinel," a newspaper, on October 24, 1942, carried an article which indicated that a Reverend Gardner C. Taylor would be a speaker at a meeting of the Peoples Defense League (PDL) on October 25, 1942, at New Orleans.

Gladys Devore Williams, a former Communist Party (CP) member, advised on May 22, 1959, that the PDL is a Negro organization in New Orleans interested in local politics and not controlled or infiltrated by the CP now; however, during 1940-1948 it was infiltrated.

The "Times Picayune" issue of October 29, 1946, contained an article which reported that a Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was elected to an office (not further identified) at the Southern Conference for Human Welfare (SCHW) convention held in October, 1946, in Baton Rouge.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on November 18, 1947, that the SCHW sponsored a public meeting on November 17, 1947, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a Gardner C. Taylor spoke at the meeting. (100-42833-2)

Tolson _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
DeLoach _____
Malone _____
McGuire _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingrain _____
Gandy _____

Orig. and one to State Dept.

Req. Rec'd 10/6/60

HCF:msd
(4)

100-
REC-26
EX-100
SMA
001 E 1010
REQ. REC'D.
100-42833-2

12 OCT 14 1960

Original detached
and handed to John
Belt, State Dept.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

15 OCT 18 1960
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

Gardner C. Taylor

✓ The SCHW has been cited by the Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 592, on the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, June 16, 1947.

✓ A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past made available to this Bureau a leaflet entitled, "Louisiana Speaks Up." This leaflet announced a program under the auspices of the New Orleans Youth Conference (NOYC) which was to be held on September 4, 1947, at 929 Gravier Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. According to this leaflet a Reverend Gardner C. Taylor, pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, was to be a speaker.

FOIA b 7 - D [redacted] a former CP member who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in April, 1948, that the NOYC was infiltrated and controlled by the CP during the period of its existence, 1942-1947. (100-89789-3)

✓ An article on page two of the January 20, 1953, issue of the "Daily Worker" reported on a two-day conference of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) which was to be held on January 30-31, 1953. A Reverend Gardner C. Taylor, Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, was listed as a sponsor of the conference. (100-428353-2)

✓ The ECLC has been cited by Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, Senate Document 117, April 23, 1956, page 91.

1 - Mr. Haack
1 - Mr. Krupinsky

SAC, New York (100-147908)

May 11, 1962

REC-140

Director, FBI (100-428353) - 4

**GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR
SECURITY MATTER - C**

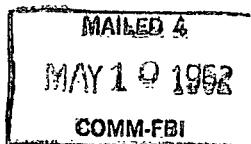
4-24-62. Rerep of Special Agent William R. Clough dated

Enclosed is one copy each of Cincinnati letter to the Director dated 6-6-58, memorandum dated 4-25-60 prepared at the Bureau containing information regarding subject, and letter of Victor Emanuel, with attachment, addressed to the Director dated 4-2-58. You should review the information contained in the enclosures and incorporate pertinent data in your next report. Victor Emanuel is known to your office and the information furnished by him is for your assistance regarding subject's background.

The Bureau desires that you discreetly determine if Taylor continues as a member of the New York City Board of Education. Further, determine his political affiliation and the particulars as to where and when the elections will be held and the district in which he might run.

Surep the results of your inquiry, including the pertinent data furnished you as enclosures to this letter. Handle promptly.

Enclosures (4)



NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject's name not included in the Security Index.
He is pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York. In a recent meeting of Kings County, New York, Communist Party, it was mentioned that Taylor plans to run for the office of U. S. Congressman and that he is to receive the support of the CP. No investigation warranted; however, discreet inquiry to verify and clarify his political intentions desirable.

Toison _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room **5**
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

~~MAY 24 1952~~

NW 46648 DocId:32913301 Page 19

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 4/24/62	Investigative Period 3/2-4/12/62
TITLE OF CASE GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR aka Gardener Calvin Taylor, Gardiner Calvin Taylor		Report made by WILLIAM R. CLOUGH	Typed By: imk
		CHARACTER OF CASE SM - C	

SUMMARY REPORT

- C -

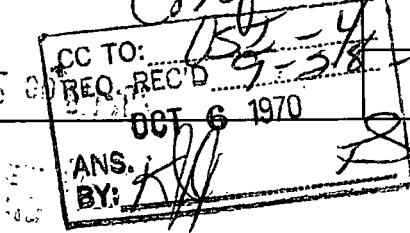
R 10
FD-311

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Subject's residence and employment, as they appear in the report, were ascertained by SA WILLIAM R. OLOUGH, via a pretext telephone call to an unknown female at subject's place of residence. A fictitious newspaper reporter seeking to contact the subject for purposes of soliciting his comments on the current New York City School Teachers Strike was the pretext utilized.

The following record checks were made with no record for subject being found, and/or no pertinent information to report concerning the subject:

REC-34
CONF

Approved FBI	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 4-Bureau (RM) 3-New York (100-147908)		100-428353-4	MCT-16
<i>CONF</i> 		APR 25 1962	REC-72
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<i>SUBV. CONTROL</i>			

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NY 100-147908

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINUED:

Credit Bureau of Greater New York - records checked by PAULINE DE FIORE for IC JOHN F. GOOD on 3/14/62.

Bureau of Criminal Identification, NYCPD, on 3/30/62.

On 3/6/53, [FOIA b 7 - D] made available a pamphlet captioned, "Conference on Racial Bigotry and the New York Press". This pamphlet identified subject as one of the prominent initiating sponsors of a group calling for an end to newspaper reportage which "contains explosive sparks of racist provocation".

On 2/16/61, Mrs. JESSIE C. TRIMMER, School Teacher, Prospect Heights High School, Brooklyn, New York, furnished to the NYO a mimeographed notice of an award and scroll presentation to take place at Prospect Heights High School, Brotherhood Assembly, on Tuesday, 2/21/61. The notice announced that an award would be made to one Mrs. JAMES GABRIELLE who "in the face of mob action" sent her daughter to a newly desegregated school in New Orleans until such violence occurred as to cause the GABRIELLE family to have their daughter withdrawn from that school. Listed as a guest at this presentation was the subject, described as a member of the Board of Education.

"The New York Amsterdam News" issued of 4/9/60, contained an advertisement by the "Committee to Defend Martin Luther King, and the Struggle for Freedom in the South, 312 West 125th Street, New York 27, New York". Listed as a co-chairman of this committee was "Dr. Gardner C. Taylor".

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-B-

NY 100-147908

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINUED:

On 2/20/61, FOIA b 7 - D furnished a program of events, speakers, and national sponsoring committee of the Negro American Labor Council Workshop and Institutes on Race Bias in Trade Unions, Industry, and Government, Washington, D. C. Listed as being on the "sponsoring committee" was Reverend GARDNER TAYLOR.

It is noted there is no characterization for the organizations "Committee to Defend Martin Luther King in the Struggle for Freedom in the South, nor Negro American Labor Council".

"The Worker" issue of March 8, 1959, page 1, column 1, contained an article noting that Dr. GARDNER C. TAYLOR, "only Negro member of the New York City Board of Education", had called upon students, teachers, and the principals to support the April 18, "March" and petition campaign for school integration.

Subject was observed by SA WILLIAM R. CLOUGH on the evening of 5/21/61, when he appeared as a guest panelist on the weekly TV program, "Open End", Channel 5, New York, produced by Talent Associates, 444 Madison Avenue, Manhattan, New York, and moderated by the well-known producer DAVID SUSSKIND.

The topic for discussion on this informal program was, "The Negro and his Rights". It was the agents recollection that subject's remarks, as a whole, were to champion Negro rights, spoke out in favor of "Core" and the work of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, and opposed segregation in any form.

COVER PAGE

-C-

NY 100-147908

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINUED:

Subject ~~his~~ not being included in the Security or Reserve Indexes.

It is noted that subject is prominently known in the New York area as a result of his work in the Negro, Educational, and Religious fields. As such, he has access to news media, and is widely quoted in newspapers, as well as having made the previously mentioned appearance on television.

In view of this fact, together with an evaluation of his known activity, the NYO does not believe an interview of subject is warranted or appears justified at this time, but could lead to embarrassment to this Bureau.

This report is being submitted primarily for indexing purposes, and to apprise the Bureau of CP's interest in subject as a possible candidate to Congress.

This report is stamped "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information furnished by NY T-1, and NY T-2, sources of continuing value, which information, if made available to unauthorized persons, might compromise these sources, to the detriment of the National Defense.

INFORMANTS:

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
NY T-1 FOIA(b) 7 - D	FOIA b 7 - D

COVER PAGE

-D-

NY 100-147908

Identity of Source

NY T-2

FOIA b 7 - D

File Number Where Located

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

NY 694-S*, and FOIA b 7 - D were utilized to characterize "Freedomways Associates, Inc.".

The following informants were unable to furnish any information concerning the subject:

Informant

Date Contacted

Contacting Agent

FOIA b 7 - D

4/3/62
3/30/62
4/2/62
4/2/62
4/4/62
4/4/62
4/4/62

JOHN B. COULTON
CHARLES W. CAVANAUGH
JOHN F. LANGTRY
ROBERT P. SMITH
" " "
JOSEPH T. O'LEARY
" " "

COVER PAGE

-E*-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of: WILLIAM R. CLOUGH Office: New York, New York
Date: 4/24/62
Field Office File No.: 100-147908 Bureau File No.:
Title: GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR
Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis: Subject resides 1337 President St., Brooklyn, New York, and is Pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, 833 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. At meeting of Leadership of Region 1, KCCP, held 2/5/62, it was announced that subject plans to run for the U. S. Congress, and is to receive the support of the CP. Subject listed as subscriber to "Freedomways" in October, 1961.

- C -

Investigation in this case was predicated upon receipt of information in February, 1962, that subject plans to run for Congress, and is to receive the support of the Communist Party (CP), as will be set forth more fully herein.

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

Unless otherwise indicated, the information appearing under this caption was obtained from a capsule biography of the subject appearing in "Who's Who in America", Volume 31, 1960-1961 edition.

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A. Birth Data

Subject was born at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on June 18, 1918, the son of W. M. and SELINA G. TAYLOR.

Mr. Wayne E. Rivenburg

Records of the Brooklyn Board of Elections, Brooklyn, New York, reviewed by IC WAYNE E. RIVENBURG on April 2, 1962, and the Department of Motor Vehicles, which latter records were checked on March 30, 1962, by IC ALAN J. OUIMET, reflect that subject was born on June 18, 1918, in the United States.

B. Citizenship

Subject is a United States citizen.

C. Education

Subject received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Leland College in 1937; a Doctor of Divinity Degree from that college in 1944; and a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in 1940.

D. Marital Status

Subject married LAURA SCOTT on August 25, 1940, and the couple have a daughter, MARTHA LYNN TAYLOR.

Mrs. Gardner Calvin Taylor Brooklyn Board of Election records reflect that subject is married to LAURA TAYLOR, who was born on May 4, 1918, in the United States, a resident of New York State for 11 years, of New York City for 11 years, and of the Eastern District for 2 years. This record further reflects LAURA TAYLOR's description as:

1337 President St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

NY 100-147908

Height	5'4"
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Residence	Last resided in 1954 at 170 Halsey Street Brooklyn, New York
Occupation	Her occupation is that of a housewife.

E. Residence

On April 11, 1962, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) via a pretext, ascertained that subject resides at 1337 President Street, Brooklyn, New York.

Brooklyn Board of Election records reflect that subject, in 1956 and 1957, resided at 170 Halsey Street, Brooklyn, New York.

F. Employment

On April 11, 1962, a Special Agent of the FBI, via the aforementioned pretext, determined that subject is Pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, 833 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. It was further determined, during this pretext, that subject, in 1961 was a member of the Board of Education in New York City.

Subject was ordained to the ministry in the Baptist Church in 1939; served as Minister in Elyria, Ohio, 1938-1940, in New Orleans, 1941-1943, Baton Rouge, 1943-1947, and at his present parish since 1948. Subject, as of 1961, was a member of the General Council of the American Baptist Convention, President of the Protestant Council in New York City, Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Urban League Greater New York, and as previously mentioned, a member of the Board of Education in New York City. He is listed as being a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, and as a Mason (33rd Degree).

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II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Communist Party (CP) Interest in Subject as Possible Candidate to Congress

On February 7, 1962, NY T-1 furnished information that at a meeting of the Leadership of Region 1 of the Kings County CP held at 84 Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, on February 5, 1962, it was mentioned that subject plans to run for the office of United States Congressman, and that he is to receive the support of the CP.

Subscription to "Freedomways"

For a characterization of the above see the appendix to this report under caption, "Freedomways Associates, Incorporated".

On October 8, 1961, NY T-2, furnished information that, on that date, the name and address, "Dr. Gardiner Taylor, Pastor, Concord Baptist Church, Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn 33, New York", was a subscriber to "Freedomways".

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Canvass of Certain Informants

Certain other informants, who have a knowledge of certain phases of CP activity in the New York area, were contacted in April, 1962, and could furnish no information concerning the subject.

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IV. DESCRIPTION

The following is a description of subject acquired by personal observation of subject by a Special Agent of the FBI on May 21, 1961, and from the sources reflected in this report:

Name	GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR also known as Gardener Calvin Taylor, Gardiner Calvin Taylor
Sex	Male
Race	Negro
Date of Birth	June 18, 1918
Place of Birth	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Present Residence	1337 President Street Brooklyn, New York
Former Residence	170 Halsey Street Brooklyn, New York
Occupation	Minister Concord Baptist Church 833 Marcy Avenue Brooklyn, New York
Complexion	Dark
Hair	Dark, gray, streaked
Height	6'1"
Weight	200 pounds
Build	Heavy
Citizenship	United States
Remarks	Speaks slowly and deliberately; good vocabulary and diction; wears glasses. P. 111 CALVIN X TRAVELER
Relatives	Wife LAURA TAYLOR, nee Scott MAY 21, 1918 Daughter MARTHA LYN TAYLOR

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APPENDIX

FREEDOMWAYS ASSOCIATES, INC.

The records of the Secretary of State, New York State Department of State, Albany, New York, reflect that the certificate of incorporation of Freedomways Associates, Inc., was filed on March 2, 1961.

The first issue of "Freedomways," spring, 1961, is self-described as a quarterly review of the Negro freedom movement published by Freedomways Associates, Inc., 799 Broadway, New York City.

On May 25, 1961, a confidential source advised that "Freedomways" was set up by JAMES JACKSON, a member of the National Committee, CPUSA, for the CP of the United States with the approval of the CP of the Soviet Union.

On May 24, 1961, another confidential source advised that a report was given on "Freedomways" at a meeting of the National Board, CPUSA, held on May 24, 1961. It was stated that the original plan called for the publication to be openly Marxist, but that it was later decided it would not be avowedly a Marxist publication. Editorials are in the hands of a mixed group of Marxists and non-Marxists. It was stated that the central purpose of "Freedomways" is to develop a theory and positive criticism of currents in the Negro movement, as well as to raise the level of understanding and discussion taking place in Negro life today and to project a socialist and pro-Soviet orientation.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. New York 100-147908 April 24, 1962

Title Gardner Calvin Taylor

Character Security Matter - C

Reference is made to New York report
of Special Agent William R. Clough, dated
and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) used in referenced
communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 6/8/62	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/15-6/1/62
TITLE OF CASE GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR aka		REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM R. CLOUGH	TYPED BY chj
		CHARACTER OF CASE SM - C	

REFERENCE:

W
Bulet to NY, dated 5/11/62, and report of
SA WILLIAM R. CLOUGH, dated 4/24/62, at NY.

-C-

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Information concerning the subject's prior membership in the NYC Board of Education, was ascertained by SA WILLIAM R. CLOUGH, via a pretext telephone call to one BEN GOULD, self-identified as an employee at the NYC Board of Education. Pretext utilized was that of a newspaper reporter seeking the information set out in the report, for purposes of including same in a current newspaper article concerning the subject.

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APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:	<p>4- Bureau (100-428353) REC (RM) 3- New York (100-147908) REC</p> <p>SEE REVERSE ADD. DISSEMINATION</p>		
<p>400-428353-5</p> <p>500-147908-10</p> <p>5 JUN 13 1962</p> <p>REC-35</p>		<p>REC-35</p> <p>SI-104</p>	
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AGENCY	50 JUN 22 1962		
REQUEST RECD.			
DATE FWD.			
HOW FWD.			
BY			
NOTATIONS			
SUBJ COVERED			

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ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINUED:

During the record check of the Brooklyn Board of Elections mentioned in this report, it was determined that the subject is a registered Democrat, and registered to vote for the Democratic Party as his choice for the years 1957 - 1961, inclusive.

Subject is currently a member of a triumvirate leadership of the Democratic Party in Brooklyn, New York.

(NY T-4 in report),

FOIA b 7 - D

In view of the information furnished by him relative to the subject's decision not to make himself available as a candidate in the forthcoming elections, the NYO believes that no further action should be taken in this case at this time, and is placing this case in a closed status.

This report has been stamped "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information furnished by NY T-1 through NY T-4, inclusive, sources of continuing value, which information, if made available to unauthorized persons, might compromise these sources to the detriment of the National Defense.

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File Where Located

NY T-1

FOIA b 7 - D

NY T-2

FOIA b 7 - D

NY T-3

FOIA b 7 - D

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Instant report page 4
(to SA JOSEPH T. O'LEARY)

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NY 100-147908

INFORMANTS CONTINUED:

Identity of Source

NY T-4

FOIA b (7) - D

File Where Located

100-147908-

Instant report page 5
(to SA CHARLES W. CAVANAUGH)

COVER PAGE

-C*-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of: WILLIAM R. CLOUGH Office: New York, New York
 Date: 6/8/62

Field Office File No.: 100-147908 Bureau File No.: 100-428353

Title: GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR

Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis: Subject reportedly conducted funeral services for EDWARD E. STRONG, CP Functionary, in the Concord Baptist Church of Brooklyn, in April, 1957. Reverend GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR was scheduled to speak at a meeting of the PDL in October, 1942, at New Orleans; was elected to an office at the SCHW Convention held in October, 1946 at Baton Rouge; and was listed as sponsor of a 2 day conference of the ECLC, held in January, 1953. Subject, in March, 1958, began a seven year term as a member of the NYC Board of Education, but, with other members of the board, resigned in August, 1961, at the request of the Mayor of NYC. Subject reportedly was encouraged by the CP to run for political office in forthcoming elections; but officials of his church instructed him not to undertake any political activity, and subject has therefore decided not to become a candidate.

-C-

B. 6/18/18 USADETAILS:I. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENTA. Communist Party (CP) Sympathies

On April 2, 1958, VICTOR EMANUEL, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, New York, furnished information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), that Reverend GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR, Pastor of the Concord Baptist Church of Brooklyn, in April, 1957, conducted the funeral services in that church for EDWARD E. STRONG, a CP Functionary.

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✓ According to Mr. EMANUEL, Reverend TAYLOR, in his funeral sermon, was reported to have "paid homage" to STRONG, "as one who dared to dream and work for the new world every good person desires."

Mr. M. G. LOWMAN, Circuit Riders, Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 6, 1958, furnished information to the FBI verifying the aforementioned information concerning the subject's officiating at the funeral services for STRONG at the Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, in April, 1957.

It is noted that EDWARD E. STRONG, was indicted on May 29, 1956, by a Federal Grand Jury, District of Massachusetts, Boston, for violation of the Smith Act of 1940, and was released on \$10,000.00 bond awaiting trial.

NY T-1 related, on July 6, 1956, he learned from PHIL BART, that, as of two months ago, EDWARD E. STRONG was Secretary in Charge of the CP Organizational activity in the South.

NY T-2 stated, on March 15, 1956, that PHIL BART was a member of the CP National Organizing Commission.

B. CP Front Groups

1. People's Defense League (PDL)

A characterization of the PDL appears in the appendix section of this report.

The "New Orleans Sentinel", a New Orleans newspaper, on October 24, 1942, carried an article which revealed that a Reverend GARDNER C. TAYLOR would be a speaker at a meeting of the PDL, on October 25, 1942, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

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2. Southern Conference for Human Welfare (SCHW)

A characterization of the SCHW appears in the appendix section of this report.

The "Times Picayune", issue of October 29, 1946, contained an article which reported that a Dr. GARDNER C. TAYLOR, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was elected to an office (not further identified) at the SCHW Convention held in October, 1946, in Baton Rouge.

3. Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC)

A characterization of the ECLC appears in the appendix section of this report.

An article on page 2, of the January 20, 1953 issue of "The Daily Worker", reported on a two day conference of the ECLC, which was to be held on January 30 and 31, 1953. This article revealed that a Reverend GARDNER C. TAYLOR, Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, was listed as a sponsor of the conference.

"The Daily Worker" was an east coast Communist daily newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.

II. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Prior Membership on the New York City Board of Education

On May 29, 1962, a Special Agent of the FBI, via a pretext, ascertained that the subject was appointed to a seven year term as a member of the New York City Board of Education, which term was to commence on March 28, 1958. The subject, however, as did the other members of the board, resigned his membership on the New York City Board of Education in August, 1961, at the request of Mayor ROBERT E. WAGNER, New York City, following a reported loss of

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public confidence in the board due to certain "scandals" in connection with school construction, repair and maintenance.

It was further determined, that, via this pretext, that subject, since August, 1961, has had no affiliation or connection whatever with the New York City Board of Education.

B. Reported Candidacy for United States Congress

NY T-3, on May 28, 1962, furnished information that at a meeting of the leadership of Region 1, of the Kings County CP (KCCP), held on February 5, 1962, at 84 Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, it was mentioned that the subject plans to run for the office of United States Congressman from Brooklyn, New York, in the November, 1962 elections.

NY T-3 stated that no mention was made of the specific District or Political Party the subject would represent, but it was the opinion of NY T-3 that it would be the Bedford-Stuyvesant area, and one of the two major political parties, respectively.

On May 23, 1962, IC WAYNE E. RIVENBURG caused a check to be made of the records of the Brooklyn Board of Elections. These records reflect that GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR, as of September 30, 1957, a resident of 833 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, born June 18, 1918, in the United States, had registered to vote for one of the two major political parties from 1957 through 1961, inclusive. TAYLOR revealed that he had voted in 1956 from 170 Halsey Street, Brooklyn, New York.

It is noted that 833 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, is the address of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York, of which the subject is pastor.

On May 23, 1962, IC RIVENBURG contacted Commissioner of Elections, JAMES POWERS, and Chief Clerk, Brooklyn Board of Elections, EDWARD BAKER. These individuals advised that they recognized the subject's name from the prominence and publicity he has acquired in New York. Neither individual,

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however, had any knowledge concerning the subject's alleged candidacy for public office. Commissioner POWERS noted that if the subject intends to run for Congress, he would enter the New York Primary Elections in September, 1962. POWERS added that the subject is presently a member of a triumvirate leadership of one of the two major political parties in Brooklyn, New York.

NY T-4, on May 31, 1962, related that the subject has been encouraged by the CP to run for political office; but that officials of his church have instructed the subject not to undertake any political activity on his own behalf, and that the subject, therefore decided he will not run for any political office this year.

1.

APPENDIX

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1961, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee:

"Emergency Civil Liberties Committee

"1. 'The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is an organization with headquarters in New York, whose avowed purpose is to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and discredit the FBI. * * * The committee finds that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, established in 1951, although representing itself as a non-Communist group, actually operates as a front for the Communist Party. It has repeatedly assisted, by means of funds and legal aid, Communists involved in Smith Act violations and similar legal proceedings. One of its chief activities has been and still is the dissemination of voluminous Communist propaganda material.'

'FRANK WILKINSON was called as a witness when he appeared in Atlanta as a representative of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee to propagandize against the Committee on Un-American Activities and to protest its hearings. In 1956 WILKINSON was identified as a Communist Party member by a former FBI undercover agent within the party. Summoned at that time to answer the allegation, his reply to all questions was, "I am answering no questions of this committee." This also became his stock reply to questions when he appeared during the Atlanta hearings. * * * WILKINSON has since been convicted of contempt of Congress and sentenced to one year in jail.'

2.

APPENDIX

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

'Disputing the non-Communist claim of the organization, the committee finds that a number of other individuals connected with the ECLC also have been identified under oath as Communists.

* * *

(Committee on Un-American Activities, Annual Report for 1958, House Report 187, March 9, 1959, pp. 34 and 35.)

"2. 'To defend the cases of Communist law-breakers, fronts have been devised making special appeals in behalf of civil liberties and reaching out far beyond the confines of the Communist Party itself. Among these organizations are the * * * Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. When the Communist Party itself is under fire these fronts offer a bulwark of protection.'

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 91.)"

APPENDIX

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PEOPLE'S DEFENSE LEAGUE (PDL)

GLADYS DEVORE WILLIAMS, a former Communist Party member, advised on May 22, 1959, that the People's Defense League ~~is~~ a Negro organization in New Orleans interested in local politics, and not controlled or infiltrated by the Communist Party now; however, during 1940 - 1948, it was infiltrated.

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APPENDIX

NY 100-147908

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE (SCHW)

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", revised and published as of January 2, 1957, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, reflects the following citation concerning the "Southern Conference for Human Welfare":

1. Cited as a Communist front which received money from the Robert Marshall Foundation, one of the principal sources of funds by which many Communist fronts operate.
(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House report 1311, on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, p. 147).
2. Cited as a Communist-front organization "which seeks to attract southern liberals on the basis of its seeming interest in the problems of the South" although its "professed interest in southern welfare is simply an expedient for larger aims serving the Soviet Union and its subservient Communist Party in the United States".
(Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 592, on the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, June 16, 1947.)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

New York, New York
June 8, 1962

Bureau 100-428353
New York 100-147908

Title Gardner Calvin Taylor

Character Security Matter - C

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent William R. Clough, dated and captioned as above at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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